

352-0742
M55
1855/56

REPORTS

OF THE

SELECTMEN

AND

SUPERINTENDING SCHOOL COMMITTEE

OF THE

TOWN OF MERRIMACK,

For the Year ending in March, 1856.

NASHUA:
FROM WHITTEMORES' PRESS.
1856.

SELECTMENS' REPORT.

EXPENDITURES.

SCHOOLS.

District No. 1, Daniel T. Ingalls and		
Hartwell Lawrence,	90	67
" " 2, Levi Fisher,	88	87
" " 3, Frederick F. Walker,	207	84
" " 4, William T. Parker,	105	49
" " 5, Walter Reed,	83	95
" " 6, Smith E. Fields,	72	06
" " 7, Reuben Melvin,	87	40
" " 8, John H. Colburn,	91	14
" " 9, Franklin Herrick,	122	54
" " 10, Nathan Parker,	40	81
" " 11, J. K. Bowers,	74	10
" " 12, Asa Knight,	52	19
	—————\$1117 06	

ROADS AND BRIDGES.

James S. Mooney,	12	50
Samuel Fuller, for bridge plank,	60	12
Smith E. Fields, cash and labor on		
Field's bridge,	46	75
Henry N. Robbins,	4	20
Israel C. Crooker,	8	75
John Wheeler, for money expended on		
West Concord road bridge,	42	34
John Wheeler, labor and cash on Rob-		
bins Bridge,	3	62

John Wheeler, labor and cash on the Marshall Bridge,	5 49
Robert McGaw, for timber,	12 00
Chase and McQuesten, for timber,	12 00
John Wheeler, for labor on bridge and road near S. P. Mitchell's,	1 00
Abiel Holt, for labor and plank,	9 40
Peter Carlton, for timber,	10 73
Richard Fretts,	10 02
Horatio N. Longa,	9 25
David Jones, cutting bushes,	2 00
David Henderson,	16 47
Levi Woodman,	2 00
Rufus Blood, 2d,	6 50
Freeman Nichols.	9 30
Albert A. Junkins,	22 00
Washington Follansbee,	19 36
James S. Mooney,	21 25
Israel C. Crooker,	25 00
Geo. H. Spalding,	12 00
Richard H. Center,	8 00
Joseph Wilson,	3 00
John McGilvray,	2 00
George B. Glynn,	39 45
Chase & McQuesten, breaking roads,	5 00
	<hr/> \$441 50

TOWN OFFICERS.

Caleb Jones, town clerk,	8 00
Matthew P. Nichols, town Treasurer,	6 00
John Wheeler, Selectman and Overseer of the Poor,	54 82
Smith E. Fields, Selectman and Over- seer of the Poor,	25 00
James Hay, Selectman and Overseer of the Poor,	20 00
Dr. Harrison Eaton, Superintending School Committee,	43 75
Reuben H. Pratt, Collector of Taxes,	44 00
	<hr/> \$201 57

ALMS HOUSE.

Under superintendence of Timothy F.

Moar,

Dr.

To amount of stock on farm March 1,
1855,

636 36

To amount of Hay and Grain,

247 60

" " " Provisions,

222 92

" " " Farming Tools,

244 35

" " " Household Furniture,

154 33

\$1505 56

Ira Barr, store goods,

17 07

James M. Fosdick, blacksmith work,

8 67

Michael White,

68

John H. Moar, 1 bush. Rye,

1 50

Jacob Hartshorn, doctoring Cow and
use of bull,

42

Ward Thompson, 3 chairs,

30

James Perkins, 6 bush. Rye,

8 58

Wm. H. Lovejoy, 1 pr. oxen,

120 00

Freeman Nichols, mending shoes,

31

Reuben Melvin, 2 days work,

2 00

Robert Moar, 1 cow,

44 00

C. B. Tuttle, store goods,

5 47

George Walker, shoeing horse,

75

John Walker, tin ware, &c.,

2 51

Thomas W. Moar, rye and oats,

5 50

Z. G. Perry, use of cart,

50

Nathan Wheeler, 1 peck seed corn,

50

S. C. Anderson & Co., store goods,

44 48

Aaron Gage, use of wagon and steer,

37 50

A. G. Tuck, opium,

1 45

Barr & Co., 1 iron square,

30

E. P. Parker, store goods,

69 86

John Wheeler, expense of James Barnes
home from Nashua,

1 05

Gage & Spofford, store goods

8 52

Nathan Parker, 1 bull,

19 00

Dr. H. Eaton, visit to Mrs. Mitchell,

1 00

" " " for medicine,

75

Samuel Chase & Co, store goods,

17 99

John Follansbee, hallibut and rennet,

73

Dennis & Varwick, haying tools, &c.,	5 47
Levi Fisher 15 lbs. Veal,	1 00
Nathan Parker, use of cart and veal,	2 00
Isaac Riddle, 4 bush. corn,	4 40
Seth Jones, 11 days work,	13 75
Isaac P. Weston, 3 days work,	4 50
Wm. Moar, 2 bags meal and red top,	5 65
John Calef, 57 1-4 lbs rolls,	4 00
H. C. Runnells, repairing axes,	2 00
John Kinson, 4 days work shingling,	5 33
E. C. Hardy, bbls and saw,	1 25
J. C. Moore, 5 bbls.,	63
D Henderson, 1-2 lb salt,	10
John Abbott & Co., 4 bags meal,	8 00
Wm. Mc. N. Smith, mending shoes,	50
Henry Marvell, 32 lbs beef,	1 86
Caleb Dodge, 4 bush rye,	5 00
Wm. Moore, 2 bbls.,	2 25
Israel Fuller, making cider,	75
David Sweat, sawing lumber,	26 88
Thomas Moore, 1 heifer,	14 00
Samuel Eaton, 1 oven mouth,	50
Thomas B. Gilmore, mason work,	1 50
J. D. Crosby, 1 cake soap,	8
Geo Way, 1 axe helve,	20
Dr. George Moore, doctoring,	25
D. B. Eastman 1 stove,	4 50
Joseph Butterfield, 4 days work,	3 00
J. C. Crooker, 1 pr. ox-bows,	45
John Abbott, blacksmith work,	1 81
Mrs. Melvin, spinning yarn,	3 50
Dr. H. Eaton, attendance on H. Humphrey,	8 16
Timothy F. Moore, services as superintendent 4 months in 1854,	62 50
See last year's report.	
Timothy F. Moore, services as superintendent 1 year from March 11, 1855,	197 50
Excess of personal property over 1855,	4 23
Amount received over what has been paid out,	30 02
	<hr/> \$2354 47

CONTRA.

By stock on farm, March 1856,	557 00
“ hay and grain,	332 18
“ provisions,	232 13
“ farming tools,	238 29
“ household furniture,	150 00
	<hr/> \$1509 79
Wm. McGilvray, bating horse,	12
John H. McAfee, 8 bush. potatoes,	6 40
“ “ “ 1 cow,	45 00
“ “ “ 8 1-2 lbs. beef,	1 00
Gilman Palmer, 21 3-4 lbs. butter,	5 44
John Shepard, 8 lbs. butter,	2 00
Warren T Butler, 1 pr. oxen,	145 00
Nathan Parker, keeping horse,	1 00
“ “ 2 pigs,	4 00
“ “ 3 1-2 days work,	3 25
“ “ 2 pr. feeting,	1 00
George W. Brown, for work,	25
J. D. Armstrong, boot on steers,	45 00
E. C. Hardy, 15 lbs. dry apple,	1 03
“ “ boot on oxen,	12 00
“ “ 23 lbs. beef,	2 30
“ “ 6 pr. feeting,	3 00
“ “ boot on cows,	17 00
E. C. Parker, 19 lbs. butter	4 75
“ “ 1 peck plums,	30
John Walker, keeping horse,	67
D. Town, for drawing plank,	2 00
Reuben Melvin, 863 lbs. hay,	8 63
Levi Fisher, 400 lbs hay,	4 00
George Riddle, 104 sleepers,	31 20
David Sweat, drawing “	1 25
George W. Brown, 1332 lbs hay,	13 32
“ “ “ 650 lbs hay,	6 50
George Austins, 1 calf,	4 00
Wm. Moore, boot on oxen,	10 00
“ “ 87 lbs butter,	21 75
“ “ 29 “ beef,	2 90
“ “ 7 pr. feeting,	3 50
“ “ to butchering,	75
Gage & Spofford, 39 lbs butter,	8 58

Levi Fisher, 1 1-2 days work	5 00
John Follansbee, 1 calf,	4 50
E. B. Stearns, 31 lbs butter,	6 20
E. P. Parkhurst, drawing stone,	3 76
“ “ 2 days work,	3 00
“ “ 504 feet plank,	7 56
Moody M. Stevens, 2 pigs,	4 00
Calvin Butterfield, bating horse,	25
Silas Shepard, chickens,	9 12
J. B. Nevins, 1 heifer and lamb,	24 50
J. C. Moore, 1 peck plums,	30
Rodney Scripture, 1 bush. hen dung,	25
J. C. Crooker, 4 qts. quinces,	25
Abel Fletcher, beef and apples,	2 25
James Kendall, beef and apples,	80
Daniel Green 1 bbl. apples,	1 25
Edward Colburn Turkeys and chickens,	9 00
Abner C. Darrah, 2 bush. apples,	34
James Murphy, 1 pr. feeting,	50
Aaron Gage, 1 cart, spear and use of bull,	84
H. Marvell, 1 heifer,	22 00
Nathan Wheeler, 6 lbs mutton,	75
David Henderson, 5 1-2 lbs mutton,	55
Wm. Wilson, 8 1-2 lbs mutton,	85
McMullen, 13 lbs mutton,	1 30
“ 45 “ beef,	1 35
Isaac Chickering, 1 hide,	3 10
John Mullen, 25 lbs beef,	75
Robert McGaw, 10 lbs beef,	80
John Abbott, 26 lbs beef,	2 40
James Parker, 54 “ “	4 32
E. C. Parker, 16 “ “	1 76
C. Richardson, 2 “ “	25
M. P. Nichols, 2 “ “	25
J. C. Moore, 10 “ “	80
Thomas Hackett, 20 3-4 lbs beef,	1 66
Ward Parker, 5 1-2 “ “	55
Adam Wallace, 3 1-2 “ “	44
Eri Kittredge, 5 1-2 “ “	66
“ “ Jr, 2 1-2 “ “	31
J. D. Armstrong, 4 1-4 “ “	50
J. C. Crooker, 8 1-2 “ “	1 00

John Wheeler, 16	lbs. beef,	1 28
H. N. Robbins, 23	" "	2 76
James M. Fosdick, 10	" "	1 10
J. C. Moore, 11	" "	1 32
Isaac Weston, 10	" "	30
J. D. Armstrong, 3 pr. feeting,		1 50
A. G. Shattuck, 1 pr. steers,		56 00
D. Sweat, 2 days work,		5 00
" " 1 lot logs,		1 50
John H. Moore, 1 heifer,		23 00
S. C. Nesmith, 25 bbls apples,		31 25
Chase & McQuesten, 1 bbl apples,		1 50
Simeon Kenney, labor,		25
Joseph Butterfield, 1 bull,		20 00
Wm. W. Smith, 2 pr. feeting,		1 00
George Campbell, 1 pr. "		50
J. C. Moore, for butchering,		50
Edward Coburn, 1 Turkey,		1 25
John Jacob, for ride,		50
John Walker, for horse keeping,		1 25
Wm. S. Blood, board,		50
James Parker, drawing stone,		15 93
John Kinson, 4 pr. feeting,		2 00
J. S. Shepard, 44 lbs veal,		3 08
" " 1 calf skin,		1 00
Wm. Hayden, 2 pr feeting,		1 00
Abijah Leach 2 bbls apples,		2 50
E. C. Stevens, 158 feet plank,		2 50
Charles Sweat, 55 " "		82
Freeman Nichols, use of bull,		33
Isaac Parker, " " "		1 00
S. C. Anderson, 10 lbs beef,		89
E. P. Parker 10 " "		80
" " 27 pr feeting,		13 50
Board of H. Humphrey, including physician's bill,		68 16
Labor in drawing and sawing lumber and repairing house,		30 00
		<hr/> \$2354 47

Invoice of personal property at alms house, Feb. 1856.

STOCK, SHOATS, &C.

1 horse,	75 00
1 pair oxen,	125 00
1 pair 4 year old steers,	90 00
7 cows,	175 00
1 two year old heifer,	14 00
2 calves,	14 00
4 sheep and three lambs,	16 00
30 fowls,	10 00
3 shoats,	36 00
2 turkeys,	2 00
	<hr/> \$557 00

HAY AND GRAIN.

10 1-2 tons English hay,	210 00
Lot rye and oat straw,	4 00
Lot seed corn,	2 50
71 bushels corn,	88 75
4 " Spring rye,	6 00
1½ " Beans,	4 12
34 " Oats	17 00
	<hr/> \$332 37

PROVISIONS.

1-4 bbl flour,	2 87
2 bushel rye meal	3 00
2 " indian meal,	2 50
16 lbs candles,	2 00
15 " sausages,	2 00
34 " butter,	8 50
82 " cheese,	6 56
1-2 bbl pickles,	1 50
1 " salted cucumbers,	3 00
1-2 " soap,	2 00
1 " beef,	15 00
1 3-4 bbl pork,	43 75
219 lbs ham,	24 87
9 gallons molasses,	4 23
3 bbls apples,	3 00
165 bushel potatoes,	74 25

6 bbls cider,	7 50
8 bushels turnips,	2 00
Lot cabbage,	1 50
255 lbs dried apple,	15 30
20 " " pumpkin,	80
12 " rolls,	6 00
	<hr/> \$232 13

FARMING TOOLS.

1 grain cradle,	2 00
7 rakes,	1 17
5 scythes and sneaths,	6 25
Lot old iron,	1 50
Winnowing mill,	8 00
4 pitch forks,	1 50
1 Manure hook,	50
3 " forks,	3 00
2 iron bars,	2 00
4 ox-yokes and irons,	8 00
2 shovels,	75
1 hay knife,	1 00
4 sickles,	1 00
2 harnesses,	12 00
1 spread chain,	1 00
1 gig wagon,	45 00
1 sleigh,	8 00
1 wheelbarrow,	1 00
5 baskets,	75
1 M. shingles,	3 00
5 ladders,	5 00
1 grindstone,	6 00
4 hoes,	75
1 buffalo robe,	3 50
1 cross cut saw,	1 00
2 wood saws,	1 50
2 hand saws,	1 00
5 augers,	1 60
1 fro,	8
1 iron square,	30
1 shave,	10
1 cant hook,	1 00
Beetle and wedge,	62

4 stake chains,	1 00
4 draught chains,	6 00
3 sleds,	11 00
1 cart,	15 00
1 stone drag,	1 50
1 harrow,	5 00
1 horse rake,	6 00
5 ploughs,	20 00
1 cultivator,	2 50
1 hay rack,	3 00
2 1-2 M. lumber,	30 00
1 roller,	5 00
2 whiffletrees,	1 00
6 bags and 1 set measures,	1 50
Household furniture,	150 00
Whole amount of personal property, ———	\$1509 79

SUPPORT OF POOR OFF THE FARM.

Mr Leonard for support of his brother,	26 00
For the support of Wm. A Messer at Keene,	13 31
E P Parker, goods for T Mitchell in 1854,	1 50
Frederick F. Walker, assistance to T. Mitchell in 1854,	2 00
Daniel Larrabee,	27 44
Solomon Barnes, wife and child,	8 36
Margaret Combs and child,	31 12
Harrison Eaton, medical attendance on Samuel Barnes,	52 70
—————	\$162 43

COUNTY PAUPERS.

E. P. Parker, goods to John Sanford,	17 08
R. H. Pratt rent of house “ “	4 16
Hartwell Lawrence, wood “ “	3 75
D. Henderson, goods for Wm. Riley,	16 17
Alex. McC Wilkins, wood and provis- ions for Luther Smith,	5 12
—————	\$46 28

MISCELLANEOUS.

Freeman Nichols, labor on town farm in 1854,	5 22
Nathan Parker, for six small bills due 1854,	7 20
Albin Beard, printing reports for 1855,	23 00
John Wheeler, cash for printed orders	3 13
“ “ “ “ highway survey- or's books,	2 09
Caleb Jones, “ “ record book,	1 67
“ “ “ “ over assessment,	1 25
William Goodwin clearing Thornton's Ferry burying ground,	2 00
Norris & Pearsons, for damages,	10 00
Lucinda Parkhurst for eight weeks work at the town farm in 1854,	8 00
Mr Tenney, teachers institute tax,	25 20
Farmers Insurance assessment,	4 73
John Wheeler, stationery, &c.,	6 00
R. H. Pratt, abatement of taxes which is a final settlement for 1855,	31 00
John McClure, cutting bushes in the south burying ground,	2 00
R. H. Pratt, for over assessments	4 85
Town farm school house tax,	3 63
J. & E. Kittredge, over assessment,	66
Daniel L. Herrick, taxed in 1854 and 1855 for land which he did not own,	1 00
Town farm tax in Amherst,	1 33
Isaac Shedd, plough beam,	1 50
Samuel G. Chamberlain, over assessment,	49
	<hr/> \$146 15

TAXES PAID.

State tax,	336 00
County tax,	479 11
School house tax No. 2,	50 00
“ “ “ “ 8,	15 00
“ “ “ “ 12,	10 00
	<hr/> \$890 00

SELECTMEN'S ACCOUNT.

Balance in treasury, March, 1855,	408 18
Error in former report of 113 51.	
Town, county, state and school taxes, 2020	63
School house taxes No's. 2, 8, and 12,	77 31
Literary fund money,	97 13
Railroad tax,	330 64
Received from county,	43 00
Due " "	41 00
Received from town of Goshen,	101 18
	<hr/> \$3119 07

DISBURSEMENTS.

Schools;	1117 06
Roads and Bridges,	441 50
School house taxes No's. 2, 8, and 12,	75 00
Support of poor off the farm,	162 43
County paupers,	46 00
State and county taxes,	815 75
Town officers,	201 57
Miscellaneous,	146 15
Leaving a balance in treasury of	113 61
	<hr/> \$3119 07

JOHN WHEELER, } Selectmen
 SMITH E. FIELDS, } of
 JAMES HAY, } Merrimack.

RECAPITULATION.

Schools	1117 06
Roads & Bridges,	441 50
Support of poor off the farm,	162 43
County paupers,	46 00
Miscellaneous,	146 15
Taxes paid,	890 11
Town officers,	201 57

REMARKS.

The foregoing report exhibits all the transactions of the Selectmen and superintendent of the pauper farm in relation to town officers, for the year ending March 1, 1856.

The number of paupers at the farm is eleven which has been the usual number. They have enjoyed good health, only one visit from a physician. We found the affairs at the farm in a good condition both indoors and out, and we can say that Mrs Moar is a good housekeeper, and we think that the farm has been carried on in a husband-like manner, and have had good crops to repay the labor, excepting the English hay, which fell short some six or 8 tons. The farm has cleared itself of the debt of sixty two dollars and fifty cents, which was incurred last year, and paid the expenses of the present year and a credit of \$34,25 in favor of the farm as you will see by the report.

The expense of repairing the roads and bridges have been great; exceeding the sum of last year \$313,14, and of this sum near two hundred dollars of it has been paid to the different Surveyors of highways, through the town for breaking roads, shoveling snow, the past winter, most of the bridges have been repaired through the town, and are made passable for the present, excepting Fields bridge, which will need more repairs the coming season. And the support of the farm has been great on account of sickness.

After paying the debts of the town, (as will be seen,) we have a balance in the Treasury of \$113,50.

All of which is respectfully submitted,

JOHN WHEELER,	} Selectmen of Merrimack.
SMITH E. FIELDS,	
JAMES HAY,	

THE HISTORY OF THE

... of the ...

... of the ...

... of the ...

... of the ...

REPORT

OF THE

SUPERINTENDING SCHOOL COMMITTEE.

The Superintending School Committee of each town are required by law to present at the annual meeting in March, a report, "stating the number of weeks which the public schools have been kept in each district, in summer and in winter, and what portion thereof has been kept by male, and what portion by female teachers ; the whole number of scholars that have attended each school ; the progress made in each school in the various branches of learning ; the number of children between the ages of four and fourteen years in each district that have not attended school therein ; and the number of persons in each district, between the ages of fourteen and twenty-one who can not read and write ; with such suggestions as may be useful upon the management of schools, and the subject of education."

Such facts as could well be introduced may be found in the following tabular statement:—

Tabular Statement.

SUMMER TERM.						WINTER TERM.							
TEACHERS.	No. of district.	Length of School in weeks.	No. of Scholars.	Average attendance.	No. between 4 and 14 not attending.	Wages of Teacher per month.	TEACHERS.	No. of district.	Length of School in weeks.	No. of Scholars.	Average attendance.	No. between 4 and 14 not attending.	Wages of Teacher per month.
Lydia B. Clapp,	1	9	16	10		\$9,00	S. E. Lawrence,	1	9	29	25		\$12,00
No School.							Mary E. Collins,	2	16	19	17	3	12,00
Mary J. Cutts,	3	16	40	27 $\frac{3}{4}$	2	13,00	P. T. Atwood,	3	15	55	42	2	16,00
Harriet H. Fay,	4	11	22	19		10,00	Hosea B. Spalding,	4	10	33	28		19,00
Bettie C. Spalding,	5	8	18	14		8,00	Wm. S. Greenough,	5	12	21	17	3	15,00
Adeline H. McKean,	6	10	26	19		10,00	Charles Fosdick,	6	11	26	17		20,00
Sarah E. Heald,	7	12	24	20		9,00	S. Eliza Heald,	7	9	24	21 $\frac{1}{2}$		12,00
Lucy A. Wilkins,	8	8	16	14		8,00	Lucy A. Wilkins,	8	12	21	18		12,00
Calista J. Darrah,	9	11	47	37		12,00	Calista J. Darrah,	9	11	44	37		12,00
Sarah M. Longa,	10	7	22	17 $\frac{1}{2}$		8,00	Hannah T. Nevins,	10	10	21	16		11,00
Elmira George,	11	8	28	23	2	12,00	Elmira George,	11	16	25	19	7	12,00
Nancie J. Woods,	12	7	19	19		7,00	Nancie J. Woods,	12	10	19	14	4	7,00

REMARKS ON INDIVIDUAL DISTRICTS.

No. 1.—DANIEL T. INGALLS, ESQ., AND HARTWELL LAWRENCE, AGENTS. The school house in this district is totally unfit for the purposes of education. The district is, unfortunately divided in feeling and all efforts to erect a house have failed. They can not expect a first rate School in the present condition of things. Notwithstanding the disadvantages referred to, we think that Miss Clapp was quite successful in the Summer term and that Miss Lawrence labored faithfully in the winter term. Improvement was manifest.

No. 2.—LEVI FISHER, AGENT. There are but few small Scholars in this district, and they very wisely expend their money in the winter term. The course of instruc-

tion by Miss Collins has been very thorough and marked improvement made in the several branches taught. Some of the best scholars in town are to be found in the school. The House has been furnished with Fowle's outline maps.

NO. 3.—FREDERICK F. WALKER, AGENT. The attendance during the summer term was very good. The Register shows but few absences or tardy marks. Miss Cutts, by her mild and admirable deportment, gained the affection of her pupils, and the school made commendable proficiency in their studies.

After making all due allowance for necessary absences the Register of the winter term shows unpardonable want of punctuality. Miss Atwood exerted herself to remedy the evil and to maintain good discipline. The school appeared well on examination. We were particularly gratified with the *promptness* and *accuracy* of the answers given. Every pupil could be heard from any part of the room. Outline maps and a map of New Hampshire have been procured. This school needs an efficient male teacher in the winter.

NO. 4.—WILLIAM T. PARKER, ESQ., AGENT. The summer school was under the charge of Miss Fay, who had taught several terms previously. She succeeded admirably in interesting her pupils in their studies. They were wide awake, busy and happy. The winter term commenced under unfavorable circumstances by a lady who declined to continue it and the district very fortunately secured the services of Mr. Spalding. Under his active and efficient efforts, the pupils made rapid progress. The examination was continued through the day, and reflected great credit upon both teacher and pupils. The House is supplied with a map of the U. S., outline maps, a clock, globe and thermometer.

NO. 5.—WALTER REED, AGENT. Miss Spalding, who had the care of the summer term, labored assiduously for

the benefit of her pupils. Although the term was short, respectable advancement was made in their several studies. At the close of the winter school under Mr. Greenough we were particularly pleased with the improvement made in reading and in arithmetic. The writing books exhibited were very neat. The house has outline maps.

No. 6.—SMITH E. FIELDS, AGENT. This school deserves commendation for the regularity and punctuality of their attendance. Miss McKean in the summer, and Mr. Fosdick in the winter, maintained the best of discipline. The examinations gave evidence of faithfulness on the part of the teachers and industry and good progress on the part of the scholars. The parents are negligent in visiting the school. The schoolroom needs outline maps.—They are of great service in teaching small scholars geography.

No. 7.—REUBEN MELVIN, AGENT.—The summer register shows but *six* tardy marks for twenty-four scholars in a term of twelve weeks, an evidence of what *can* be done when proper effort is made to secure punctuality. The course of instruction was very systematic. The teacher was kind and affable to her pupils. Obedience was cheerful. Miss Heald taught also in the winter, and every thing went on with the same clock-work regularity as in the summer. Good improvement was made during the year. Outline maps are needed.

No. 8.—JOHN H. COBURN, AGENT. This district have enlarged and greatly improved their house. They have an ample black-board and are contemplating the introduction of outline maps and other necessary apparatus. The school, though small and not so advanced in their studies as others in town, is a model for promptness, animation and distinctness of enunciation. Miss Wilkins who taught both summer and winter is an active and energetic teach-

er and infuses life into her pupils. It is hardly necessary to add that the school appeared well on examination.

No. 9.—FRANKLIN HERRICK, AGENT. Miss Darrah had charge of both terms. She succeeded in gaining the good will of her pupils and in giving general satisfaction to the parents. Good progress was made in the several studies pursued. This bids fair to become one of the best schools in town. This district should have three terms annually. Thirty weeks' vacation in a year is too long where parents have no employment for their children.—The school-room has no maps.

No. 10.—NATHAN PARKER, AGENT. It was apparent at the close of the summer term that Miss Longa had spared no effort which might benefit the school. The classes in arithmetic and geography are to be commended. The winter school was a profitable one. Arithmetic and penmanship in particular had been well taught. Miss Nevens is a faithful and correct teacher.

No. 11.—JOSHUA K. BOWERS, AGENT. It is unfortunate for this district that a want of harmony has arisen among the parents. No teacher can maintain good discipline and do justice to a school unless she is sustained by their *cordial* and *united* support. Miss George is a young lady of superior mental acquirements and applied herself with fidelity to her task. The closing examination was a creditable one. The winter term was both pleasant and profitable. This district after the expenditure of the public money continue their school through the year, by private subscription. Outline maps are needed.

No. 12.—ASA KNIGHT, AGENT. A small quiet school easily governed. The parents manifest a praiseworthy interest in its success by attending the examination.—Under the instruction of Miss Woods we think a fair proficiency has been made in the several branches taught.—In a larger school the teacher would find it necessary to

enforce a more rigid discipline. The school-room has outline maps.

GENERAL REMARKS.

It is due to the teachers, to acknowledge that the Registers for the first time, are generally correct and have been kept with care. It is impossible to make an accurate return to the Secretary of State, unless the teacher's reports are full and reliable. A teacher who spends ten or twelve weeks in a district can have no excuse for not answering *every* enquiry.

No change of school books has been recommended during the past year. My predecessor advised that when new books were needed such should be procured as are approved by the Board of Education. This course has been continued. The list of books now to be introduced may be seen in the last State Report a copy of which is in every district. Scholars should wait until the term has commenced before procuring their books. Teachers should never introduce a book without the consent of the Superintending Committee, and teachers of private schools should conform to the established list.

Complaints have justly been made that sufficient attention has not been given to penmanship. The chance to acquire a neat and systematic handwriting is poor, when the pupil is obliged to imitate a new teacher every term. To remedy this evil, "Payson and Dunton's system of penmanship" has been introduced with good effect. The learner, to receive the full benefit of it, should commence with the first number of the series, and go through in their order.

Although we intend to submit but a brief report the present year, we cannot let the occasion pass without adverting to the inexcusable negligence and want of interest yet manifested by the parents. How many fathers and mothers in town have never seen a School in session since

the last day of their own pupilage? The individual who has never *visited* a school should be the last to find *fault* with it. If you would judge *correctly* go and see and hear for yourselves. It is no easy matter to govern a school of forty or sixty scholars of all ages and all varieties of disposition and mete out exact justice to all. Does any one dispute it let him try it himself.

Let me urge the several Prudential committees to great carefulness in the selection of teachers. There are but two towns in the County that pay higher wages to Female teachers than our own. We are able, then, to command the services of the best. Do not delay engaging until you are obliged to take the second or third rate teachers.

Every teacher should apply for a certificate of qualification as soon as they engage a school and *never* commence teaching without the requisite credentials. The school terms should be so arranged as to permit the teacher to attend the county Institute. Commending the common schools to the care of the town as their dearest and most important interest. The above report is respectfully submitted.

HARRISON EATON,
Superintending School Committee.

Merrimack, March 3d, 1856.

New Hampshire State Library



3 4677 00330292 9